

For example, a recent AARP poll revealed that nearly 8 in 10, that is nearly 78 percent of those enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan, say the new benefit is either meeting or exceeding their expectations.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps if the Democrats put as much effort into encouraging, rather than discouraging seniors, we would have enrolled 30 million much sooner.

ENERGY CRISIS AND PRICES IN AMERICA

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, in San Diego, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.43 a gallon, highlighting the expanding energy crisis in the country and fueling the frustration of many Americans. It is quite clear that the energy policies of President Bush and the Republican majority have failed.

The American people want Congress to come together and fix this crisis. House Democrats are energized in providing quick relief and long-term solutions. Democrats want to provide quick relief by expanding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and expanding tax credits and grants to small businesses. We do this by repealing the \$8 billion in Federal giveaways Republicans dished out to the oil and gas companies.

Democrats are committed to funding groundbreaking research and new technologies so that we can be independent of foreign oil by the year 2020. The energy policy of this administration and this majority is draining the wallets of Americans. It is time we implement a comprehensive energy policy that helps consumers and emphasizes alternate renewable energy.

MONSIGNOR EMILIO VALLINA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Reverend Monsignor Emilio Vallina in celebration of his 54 years of service. As a servant of God, he has truly made a difference in the San Juan Bosco Church community in my congressional district of Miami, Florida.

San Juan Bosco Church is fortunate to have an individual who gives so generously of his time and energy to improve our area. It is the perseverance and compassion of people like Monsignor Vallina that help in the development of a stronger south Florida.

After fleeing the tyrannical Castro regime in 1961, Monsignor Emilio has dedicated himself to the teaching and the practice of the Catholic doctrine. His church in East Little Havana welcomes the poor immigrants, the homeless and the lonely.

Monsignor Emilio Vallina deserves commendation for his hard work and his continuous effort to improve the welfare of our community. May God continue to bless you, my friend, Monsignor Emilio Vallina.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL of California). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

H-PRIZE ACT OF 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5143) to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5143

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "H-Prize Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTERING ENTITY.—The term "administering entity" means the entity with which the Secretary enters into an agreement under section 3(c).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Energy.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 3. PRIZE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to competitively award cash prizes only in conformity with this Act to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies.

(b) ADVERTISING AND SOLICITATION OF COMPETITORS.—

(1) ADVERTISING.—The Secretary shall widely advertise prize competitions to encourage broad participation, including by individuals, universities (including historically Black colleges and universities and other minority serving institutions), and large and small businesses (including businesses owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons).

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The Secretary shall announce each prize competition by publishing a notice in the Federal Register. This notice shall include the subject of the competition, the duration of the competition, the eligibility requirements for participation in the competition, the process for participants to register for the competition, the amount of the prize, and the criteria for awarding the prize.

(c) ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITIONS.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a private, nonprofit entity to administer the prize competitions, subject to the provisions

of this Act. The duties of the administering entity under the agreement shall include—

(1) advertising prize competitions and their results;

(2) raising funds from private entities and individuals to pay for administrative costs and to contribute to cash prizes;

(3) working with the Secretary to develop the criteria for selecting winners in prize competitions, based on goals provided by the Secretary;

(4) determining, in consultation with the Secretary, the appropriate amount for each prize to be awarded;

(5) selecting judges in accordance with section 4(d), using criteria developed in consultation with the Secretary; and

(6) preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of a registered participant's intellectual property, trade secrets, and confidential business information.

(d) FUNDING SOURCES.—Prizes under this Act shall consist of Federal appropriated funds and any funds provided by the administering entity (including funds raised pursuant to subsection (c)(2)) for such cash prizes. The Secretary may not give any special consideration to any private sector entity or individual in return for a donation to the administering entity.

(e) ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZES.—The Secretary may not issue a notice required by subsection (b)(2) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the prize have been appropriated or committed in writing by the administering entity. The Secretary may increase the amount of a prize after an initial announcement is made under subsection (b)(2) if—

(1) notice of the increase is provided in the same manner as the initial notice of the prize; and

(2) the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the increase have been appropriated or committed in writing by the administering entity.

(f) SUNSET.—The authority to announce prize competitions under this Act shall terminate on September 30, 2017.

SEC. 4. PRIZE CATEGORIES.

(a) CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish prizes for—

(1) advancements in components or systems related to—

- (A) hydrogen production;
- (B) hydrogen storage;
- (C) hydrogen distribution; and
- (D) hydrogen utilization;

(2) prototypes of hydrogen-powered vehicles or other hydrogen-based products that best meet or exceed objective performance criteria, such as completion of a race over a certain distance or terrain or generation of energy at certain levels of efficiency; and

(3) transformational changes in technologies for the distribution or production of hydrogen that meet or exceed far-reaching objective criteria, which shall include minimal carbon emissions and which may include cost criteria designed to facilitate the eventual market success of a winning technology.

(b) AWARDS.—

(1) ADVANCEMENTS.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), the prizes authorized under subsection (a)(1) shall be awarded biennially to the most significant advance made in each of the four subcategories described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (a)(1) since the submission deadline of the previous prize competition in the same category under subsection (a)(1) or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later, unless no such advance is significant enough to merit an award. No one such prize may exceed \$1,000,000. If less than \$4,000,000 is

available for a prize competition under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may omit one or more subcategories, reduce the amount of the prizes, or not hold a prize competition.

(2) **PROTOTYPES.**—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), prizes authorized under subsection (a)(2) shall be awarded biennially in alternate years from the prizes authorized under subsection (a)(1). The Secretary is authorized to award up to one prize in this category in each 2-year period. No such prize may exceed \$4,000,000. If no registered participants meet the objective performance criteria established pursuant to subsection (c) for a competition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall not award a prize.

(3) **TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES.**—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), the Secretary shall announce one prize competition authorized under subsection (a)(3) as soon after the date of enactment of this Act as is practicable. A prize offered under this paragraph shall be not less than \$10,000,000, paid to the winner in a lump sum, and an additional amount paid to the winner as a match for each dollar of private funding raised by the winner for the hydrogen technology beginning on the date the winner was named. The match shall be provided for 3 years after the date the prize winner is named or until the full amount of the prize has been paid out, whichever occurs first. A prize winner may elect to have the match amount paid to another entity that is continuing the development of the winning technology. The Secretary shall announce the rules for receiving the match in the notice required by section 3(b)(2). The Secretary shall award a prize under this paragraph only when a registered participant has met the objective criteria established for the prize pursuant to subsection (c) and announced pursuant to section 3(b)(2). Not more than \$10,000,000 in Federal funds may be used for the prize award under this paragraph. The administering entity shall seek to raise \$40,000,000 toward the matching award under this paragraph.

(c) **CRITERIA.**—In establishing the criteria required by this Act, the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Department's Hydrogen Technical and Fuel Cell Advisory Committee;

(2) other Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation; and

(3) private organizations, including professional societies, industry associations, and the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

(d) **JUDGES.**—For each prize competition, the Secretary shall assemble a panel of qualified judges to select the winner or winners on the basis of the criteria established under subsection (c). Judges for each prize competition shall include individuals from outside the Department, including from the private sector. A judge may not—

(1) have personal or financial interests in, or be an employee, officer, director, or agent of, any entity that is a registered participant in the prize competition for which he or she will serve as a judge; or

(2) have a familial or financial relationship with an individual who is a registered participant in the prize competition for which he or she will serve as a judge.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY.

To be eligible to win a prize under this Act, an individual or entity—

(1) shall have complied with all the requirements in accordance with the Federal Register notice required under section 3(b)(2);

(2) in the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual, whether partici-

pating singly or in a group, shall be a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in, the United States; and

(3) shall not be a Federal entity, a Federal employee acting within the scope of his employment, or an employee of a national laboratory acting within the scope of his employment.

SEC. 6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

The Federal Government shall not, by virtue of offering or awarding a prize under this Act, be entitled to any intellectual property rights derived as a consequence of, or direct relation to, the participation by a registered participant in a competition authorized by this Act. This section shall not be construed to prevent the Federal Government from negotiating a license for the use of intellectual property developed for a prize competition under this Act.

SEC. 7. LIABILITY.

(a) **WAIVER OF LIABILITY.**—The Secretary may require registered participants to waive claims against the Federal Government and the administering entity (except claims for willful misconduct) for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits arising from the registered participants' participation in a competition under this Act. The Secretary shall give notice of any waiver required under this subsection in the notice required by section 3(b)(2). The Secretary may not require a registered participant to waive claims against the administering entity arising out of the unauthorized use or disclosure by the administering entity of the registered participant's intellectual property, trade secrets, or confidential business information.

(b) **LIABILITY INSURANCE.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Registered participants shall be required to obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility, in amounts determined by the Secretary, for claims by—

(A) a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from an activity carried out in connection with participation in a competition under this Act; and

(B) the Federal Government for damage or loss to Government property resulting from such an activity.

(2) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INSURED.**—The Federal Government shall be named as an additional insured under a registered participant's insurance policy required under paragraph (1)(A), and registered participants shall be required to agree to indemnify the Federal Government against third party claims for damages arising from or related to competition activities.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **AWARDS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the period encompassing fiscal years 2007 through 2016 for carrying out this Act—

(A) \$20,000,000 for awards described in section 4(a)(1);

(B) \$20,000,000 for awards described in section 4(a)(2); and

(C) \$10,000,000 for the award described in section 4(a)(3).

(2) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In addition to the amounts authorized in paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016 \$2,000,000 for the administrative costs of carrying out this Act.

(b) **CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated for prize awards under this Act shall remain available until expended, and may be transferred, reprogrammed, or expended for other purposes only after the expiration of 10 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which the funds were originally appropriated. No

provision in this Act permits obligation or payment of funds in violation of section 1341 of title 31 of the United States Code (commonly referred to as the Anti-Deficiency Act).

SEC. 9. NONSUBSTITUTION.

The programs created under this Act shall not be considered a substitute for Federal research and development programs.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5143, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H-Prize, an exciting opportunity to do for hydrogen what the X Prize did for entrepreneurial space flight. First of all, it is important for us to get a handle on what our need is, why it is that we are aiming at hydrogen, why we must accelerate the drive for hydrogen.

□ 1045

Probably a picture is worth a thousand words. So here is a picture of a gas line in China. As you can see, if that is the future, our addiction to oil becomes a significant problem for us.

ExxonMobil predicts in their energy report at the end of last year that global energy demand will grow by 60 percent between now and 2030. The challenge, of course, for us in that is that that increase in global energy demand will necessitate a 40 percent increase in OPEC oil production. Even if they have got it, do we really want to be that much more dependent on countries in OPEC?

So the idea is to figure out a way to break our addiction to oil, to move away from this dependence that we are currently in.

The Ansari X PRIZE did for entrepreneurial space flight what the H-Prize can do for hydrogen. As you know, Burt Rattan's spaceship won, became the first private spaceship in commercial use and flew within 2 weeks successfully and back to the Earth. That is the idea; that is the model that we are using here in the H-Prize.

The H-Prize would basically set up three categories of prizes. The first is an every-other-year \$1 million prize for breakthroughs in production, storage, distribution and utilization of hydrogen. Every other year, as well, we would issue a prize of \$4 million for breakthroughs in prototypes. And

then, within 10 years, a \$10 million prize for the team that can transform from well to wheels essentially, or as one of our colleagues pointed out, from water to wheels, if you are thinking about splitting water to create hydrogen. That team that can do that transformation would win a \$10 million prize, augmented, we hope, by up to \$40 million worth of private money that would be added to the prize amount. That private money would be matched dollar for dollar to the venture capital that was raised by the team that does the transformation.

So it is a way of testing the teams' ability to get us all the way to the government's objective, which is not to declare a winner in a science project, but rather, to get all the way to the marketplace. So if a team can do it, if they can break us through to the hydrogen economy, they would get the \$10 million, but then they would get a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$40 million if we can raise that private money for their venture capital. And so they would have \$50 million to get to the marketplace.

Now, along the way, we have had helpful suggestions from various members of the committee and other Members not on the committee. And it is true that there are other competing technologies. For example, a breakthrough in better batteries could supplant hydrogen. Better solar cells could replace or win out in this race to the fuel of the future. Those, I see, as the three big competitors: hydrogen, solar cells and then better batteries.

What we hope to do in the H-Prize is incentivize the breakthroughs, the creativity that can get us to a hydrogen economy. Along the way I think I am hearing from other Members of Congress about possible other prizes that would incentivize perhaps solar or perhaps better battery technology.

I think it makes sense to have prizes because the beauty of prizes, as we heard from Peter Diamondes, the founder of the X Prize, is, of course, if nobody wins, you don't pay the prize money. So the government basically gets the research done for free until somebody meets the metrics of the prize, and then we award the prize money. So I am very supportive of other prizes.

It is also true that it has worked before. We have actually done prizes in the past. In fact, the transcontinental railroad essentially had some prizes in it, both dollar-per-mile for the railroad companies rewarded by the Congress, appropriations from this body, and also a great deal of land that was offered to the railroads if they could do this, if they could complete the transcontinental railroad.

And, of course, the thing that I think we all need to be aware of is that this was done in 6 years. The transcontinental railroad was begun in 1863, completed in 1869. And you know, there was a lot going on during that time period. In fact, there was the Civil War

under way. But the United States, with the support of the U.S. Congress, united east and west within 6 years. We can, because we have done it before.

Now, in 1927 Charles Lindbergh won a prize for being the first to successfully go in a transcontinental flight across the Atlantic Ocean. That is a transatlantic flight over the Atlantic Ocean. And that prize incentivized him and caused him to go for it. There was a lot of risk involved in that, but he won it; and the face of aviation was changed because of it.

So I submit to my colleagues here today that hydrogen is not as far away as we think it is. When we hear people talking about 10, 20, 30 years away, particularly when they get into the 30 kind of time frame, most Americans start putting that way on the back burner and maybe even off of the stove. But it really is not that far away if we get with it.

And the final example I would use for that is when President Kennedy announced in 1961 his goal of getting to the Moon before the decade was out, we did it in 1969. Within 8 years, the mission was accomplished.

It is important to remember that that mission was accomplished using slide rules, not the computers that we have today. So with the capabilities we have today, there is every reason to believe we can break through if we would but just get with it. And I look forward to the debate from colleagues who will share this view that we can get there faster than we think.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006, an innovative, forward-thinking bill that will spur the application of American ingenuity toward securing our energy future. I applaud Mr. INGLIS for introducing this legislation, and I am proud to have joined him as a chief cosponsor of this bill.

Right now, every American is affected by high energy prices. Working families, small businesses and consumers across the country are feeling the pinch with no end in sight. People aren't just paying more to fill their gas tanks or when they pay for their heating bills for their home; they are paying more at the grocery store, on air travel and for many other daily expenses. Local economies are suffering as people spend more on fuel and less on consumer goods and travel.

The high prices also highlight the fact that the U.S. is too heavily dependent on fossil fuels that we import from unstable parts of the world. To protect our national security, we must become more energy secure.

As we explore ways to bring price relief and bolster our country's energy independence, one significant energy source has emerged as a potential solution, hydrogen fuel cells.

Hydrogen holds great promise to meet many of our future energy needs,

and it addresses national security and our environmental concerns. Hydrogen is the simplest, most abundant element in the universe.

Hydrogen fuel cells have already been developed to power cars. Last week I had the opportunity to drive a hydrogen-powered car built by Honda. It did not drive much differently than any other car that we drive, a gasoline-powered car that we have right now, except for the silence of the engine, which I am used to, having driven a Ford Escape hybrid for a couple of years.

Although we do have this car that has been created, we could drive these few on the road, there are significant problems that must still be worked out before we can put a hydrogen car in every garage. For example, the weight of the fuel cells and batteries must be brought down. The range per fill-up must be extended. It is about 200 miles right now on the car that I drove. And most importantly, the price must be lowered very drastically. The car that I drove they told me cost about \$1.5 million. So clearly, there are several significant technological advances that we must make. But these are within our reach.

And when these advances are made, hydrogen can fill critical energy needs beyond transportation. Hydrogen can also be used to heat and generate electricity for our homes. The future possibilities of this energy source are enormous.

By utilizing hydrogen, we can and will lessen our dependence on foreign fuels. Right now too much American time and resources are spent dealing with situations caused by our dependence on oil that we import from unstable countries. We must wean ourselves from these unpredictable energy sources while maintaining and strengthening our economy here at home. Hydrogen provides a way to achieve both.

The environmental benefits of hydrogen are also outstanding. When used as an energy source, hydrogen produces no emissions besides water. Zero polluting emissions, an amazing advance over the current sources of energy that we use.

H.R. 5143 seeks the development of needed advances in hydrogen technology by using our greatest national resource, our intelligent and creative workforce. To address our critical energy challenge we must bring our best and brightest to the task, and H-Prize does this.

An economy based on energy outside of fossil fuels is no longer implausible. But to get there, we must invest in research and development. Research grants are the basis of this process, but what we have is a responsibility to find creative and new ways to inspire researchers, business leaders, and our youth to solve the problems that society faces. The H-Prize will help expand the possibilities of hydrogen research,

promoting people not normally involved in Federal research and development to explore avenues for a more secure energy future.

Hydrogen has the potential to reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve our air quality and maintain our economic competitiveness. And the H-Prize will help take us there.

I thank Mr. INGLIS for his leadership on this important issue, and I am proud to have joined him in this effort. This legislation has involved much bipartisan cooperation on the Science Committee, which I appreciate, and it exemplifies the usual relationship on our committee under the leadership of Chairman BOEHLERT and Ranking Member GORDON.

I hope that we can continue this cooperation on other critical issues related to America's future technological competitiveness. We must work together to encourage the creative talents that have made our country the world leader in technology.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation which will provide some of the encouragement that will better our Nation and the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with great appreciation for his skill and efficiency in moving the H-Prize through the committee, I am very happy to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Science Committee, Mr. BOEHLERT.

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5143. And I want to congratulate Chairman INGLIS for bringing forward this initiative and for pursuing it with both energy and open-mindedness.

This bill has moved swiftly through the Science Committee because Chairman INGLIS has been, at the same time, relentlessly focused on his objective and open to compromise. That is how you get things accomplished in this town. We need more Members more able to pair those traits.

The H-Prize this bill creates would similarly allow the government and the Nation to be both focused and open-minded in pursuit of the hydrogen economy.

□ 1100

Establishing an H-Prize would encourage the Nation's most creative scientists and engineers and the public at large to focus on overcoming the many technical challenges that stand between us and a hydrogen economy.

At the same time, the H-Prize does not presume that any particular technological path will lead us to the hydrogen economy. The bill encourages any interested party to take on the technical risk needed to pursue their particular notion of how to improve their production, storage and distribution or use of hydrogen.

The National Academy of Sciences has encouraged the government to ex-

periment with prizes for precisely this reason. Prizes can draw out new ideas from scientists and engineers who may not be willing or able to participate in traditional government research and development programs, while encouraging them, rather than the taxpayer, to assume the risk.

Congress has been following the academy's lead. For example, the NASA Authorization Act that was enacted last year created a prize program, and the space agency has been implementing it. All of these programs draw on several centuries of successfully using prizes to help spur technological development, from the prize to invent a way to measure longitude, a key to improving shipping, to the prize Charles Lindbergh won for his transatlantic flight. Our hope is that the H-Prize will result in a similar landmark achievement in the history of transportation.

I want to emphasize, though, that the prizes are just one tool we need to use to kick our Nation's addiction to oil.

Prizes need to be part of a balanced portfolio of measures to advance technology, a portfolio that needs to include regulations and tax incentives to create demand for new technologies, and traditional R&D programs to ensure a steady stream of work on a range of short and long-term technological questions.

Moreover, prizes are not the best tools to apply to all problems, but they are especially well suited to hydrogen, because we need to solve major long-term puzzles if the hydrogen economy is to become a reality. We need to elicit every possible idea from every quarter to do that, and we know it is going to take time to figure out what might work.

The bill structures the prize program to attack hydrogen questions in several ways: With biannual prizes for advancements to encouraging ongoing efforts and incremental progress, with biannual prizes for prototypes to encourage continuing work on integrating technologies as they develop, and with a grand prize to encourage work on the toughest show stopper, if you will, problems that could prevent us from using hydrogen as a fuel.

No one knows how all of this will turn out. That is the nature of research and the nature of a prize program. But we know that the potential benefits of hydrogen are worth the rather small investment required for a prize program. Hydrogen holds out the promise of becoming a clean, domestically produced fuel that could displace or even replace gasoline as the way we power our cars and trucks.

To achieve this, we still need to figure out how to affordably produce hydrogen using renewable energy, nuclear energy or coal with carbon dioxide sequestration, how to affordably store hydrogen on board a vehicle, how to make fuel cells and batteries more cheaply and have them operate more efficiently and how to distribute hydrogen economically.

That is a tall order, but it is exactly the kind of long-range effort we need. It is an effort that needs to be combined with proven short-range ways to reduce the use of gasoline like tighter fuel economy standards, which this House is likely to debate next week.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill, which was approved by the committee by voice vote. It is the right way to help see if we can radically change our energy future. Our dependence on foreign oil is a national security threat.

We have ways to use every weapon in our arsenal, and we need to use them to counter it.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, but there is so much more that we need to be doing. In fact, there is so much more that we should have done already. The task before us, the urgent task before us, is to develop a practical, sustainable energy source or array of sources that will allow this Nation to be energy independent without busting the budget of middle class families just to go to work, to take the kids to school, to go to the grocery store.

We need practical, sustainable energy sources that do not emit the greenhouse gases that many scientists, really most scientists now fear will lead to catastrophic climate change, that will forever alter life on this planet, and we need practical, sustainable energy sources that will not so limit our options in foreign policy that we have to be uncritical friends to some of the most unattractive nations or governments in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we do need to pursue research into hydrogen, but we need an effort comparable to the effort during World War II, the Manhattan Project. We need an effort, to use Mr. INGLIS' analogy, like the effort that this Nation had in the 1960s to reach the Moon.

That is the effort we need to put behind developing alternative fuels and conservation technologies and to move those energy and conservation technologies into widespread commercial use.

I have sponsored legislation that Mr. BOEHLERT, the Chair of the Science Committee who spoke a moment ago, and Mr. MARKEY, my Democratic colleague, have introduced that would increase fuel efficiency requirements for cars and trucks to 33 miles a gallon by 2015.

Mr. Speaker, that goal can be achieved now with existing technologies, without any technological breakthrough. I feel almost embarrassed at how modest that bill is, how lacking in ambition that bill is. But even that the leadership of this House has not been willing to bring to the floor for debate and for a vote.

But, Mr. Speaker, in our hearing on hydrogen technology, in our hearing in the Science Committee on the H-Prize

legislation, one of the witnesses said that we could achieve cars and trucks that average 100 miles a gallon in the relatively near future if we really put our minds to it.

Why on Earth are we not doing that? Why on Earth are we not acting with the urgency that our energy needs require?

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the President's budget this year did increase funding for research into sustainable energy sources. Mr. Speaker, I regret that the President's budget found much of that additional funding from cuts to energy efficiency efforts. We need to proceed on several fronts at one time. We need to proceed without bias, without preconception.

A hydrogen economy or hydrogen fuel cells may not be the winning technology. As several of the speakers have said already, there are huge obstacles to overcome. Yes, hydrogen is abundant, but not as hydrogen. We need to find hydrogen sources, and the present source of hydrogen is by stripping it out of other fuels. Yes, when hydrogen is combined with oxygen to produce energy, that is a clean technology, but stripping hydrogen from fuels now is not clean. It is a very dirty technology, and the usual source of fuels from which it is stripped are fossil fuels, not sustainable, renewable energy sources.

Mr. Speaker, hydrogen technology, to have a hydrogen fuel cell car in every driveway, would make useless the infrastructure we now have, the pipelines, the tanks, the pumps, to transport, to distribute a fuel that is liquid on the planet Earth, which hydrogen is not.

So let's proceed. Let's proceed to develop, to provide an incentive to the private sector to develop the kinds of technologies we are going to need if hydrogen fuel cells are ever to be a practical source of energy for us.

But let us proceed on several fronts. I hope this Congress will be back soon. I will vote for this bill today, but I hope that Congress will be back soon to consider other prizes for energy, other alternative energy sources, other prizes for energy conservation, and that this Congress gives the urgent attention to energy independence, to sustainable energy sources that we desperately need, that the middle class families now paying \$3 a gallon desperately need.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), who is a cochair of the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. INGLIS for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, American economic success has been built on innovation and competition. By competing against one another to build a better mousetrap, so to speak, American entrepreneurs have developed many products, from early incandescent lights to

the Model T automobile to sophisticated computer hardware and software products of today, that have certainly made our lives better and our quality of life better.

Today in an era of increasing fuel costs the drive to produce energy economically can be advanced through this same kind of innovation and competition. Fossil fuel technology was the impetus for 20th century industrial development, but today hydrogen holds out promise for being the driver of the economy of the future.

Of course, hydrogen is a fuel that can be produced domestically, thus limiting our dependence on foreign petroleum products. I mean, that is why I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006.

As a founding member of the bipartisan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus, along with Mr. INGLIS and Mr. WYNN and Mr. LARSON, I certainly applaud Congressman INGLIS' leadership on this issue.

I also wanted to point out, too, that in my district, headquartered, is the largest producer of hydrogen in the world, Air Products and Chemicals. They have told me on many occasions that they produce about 1.7 billion cubic feet of hydrogen per day, and they are producing that for refineries, for the U.S. Government, the electronics industries and other process industries.

But the bottom line is, they said that that 1.7 billion cubic feet is enough to power seven million cars, hydrogen cars on the roads. That is a lot of hydrogen, and we can do more.

The H-Prize Act, the H-Prize Act rewards those innovators and creative thinkers who develop innovative hydrogen technologies. It establishes four \$1 million prizes, awarded every other year, to the best advances in hydrogen production, storage, distribution, and utilization. It authorizes an additional \$1 million to that person or group that develops superior hydrogen-powered vehicles or other hydrogen-based products. It establishes a minimum lump sum of a \$10 million prize award for the best transformational changes in technologies for the production and distribution of hydrogen.

Now, as I speak these words today some scientist or engineer is out there thinking of new ways to employ hydrogen technology to better address our needs. It is my hope that these prizes will serve as an incentive to those bright people as they push forward and develop these products and thereby help relieve us from our dependence on foreign energy.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I support this bill.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT), whose district has one of the keys to this hydrogen future, Savannah River National Lab.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006, and I want to thank the gentleman from South Carolina and my colleague for being such a strong proponent of hydrogen research in this ongoing energy debate.

Representative INGLIS is one of the leaders on this and I know personally I always turn to him when I need some help and advice. He is a cofounder of the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus, a caucus dedicated to moving the country away from its dependence on foreign oil, and toward a hydrogen economy.

The need to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy is evident, Mr. Speaker. Our supply simply does not meet our ever growing demand, and we are paying the price at the gas pump every day in this country.

Further, our home State of South Carolina is poised to lead the Nation towards a hydrogen-based economy. The State's strong relationship with the automotive industry, Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research, ICAR, USC's expertise with hydrogen full cells, Aiken County's new hydrogen research laboratory, and the Savannah River site's future with hydrogen research are examples of what we are doing today for tomorrow.

Promoting the hydrogen economy will provide the missing component to our country's energy portfolio, effectively making a strong movement toward energy independence.

Public-private partnerships are a key component to accomplishing energy independence. There is no doubt that the private sector is the engine of growth and breeds innovation and ingenuity.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representative INGLIS for understanding the role the Federal Government has and not to come up with the idea or the science, but rather to provide incentives and promote an atmosphere that encourages such research to take place.

Mr. Speaker, I once again thank my good friend for introducing the H-Prize Act of 2006 and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of energy independence by supporting H.R. 5143.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

□ 1115

Our Nation's future depends on finding a solution to our critical energy needs.

America has always been at the forefront of technological breakthroughs. We have responded to great challenges, perhaps most famously John F. Kennedy's challenge to land a man on the Moon by the end of 1960s. And we have seen that prizes have a great effect to inspire technological advances. As Mr.

INGLIS stated earlier, he talked about Charles Lindbergh, a prize was offered and Charles Lindbergh made that first solo flight across the Atlantic.

The X Prize was put out there and we had the team put together a private flight of a spaceship 100 kilometers above the Earth. Challenges and prizes help spark the imagination of scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs who invest blood, sweat, tears and large sums of money to achieve a great goal. But perhaps the greatest role that the H-prize may serve is in spurring the imagination of our most valuable resource, our youth.

Back in the 1970s there was great interest in solar power as an alternative energy source. This was largely brought in by the OPEC crisis of the early 1970s, the high oil prices, just as we see today. So there is a great demand. We need something different and solar energy was the big thing that we were looking at.

In my 8th grade science fair project I examined solar energy. I was excited about the thought of moving beyond oil and moving to something that would make us more secure and something that would be clean. I read about it, and I moved forward; I did the science fair project.

Now, my science fair project in my own career as an engineer did not ever find that solution to an alternative energy source. And unfortunately it seemed that we got into the 1980s and what happened? We lost that interest. Interest waned in finding alternative energy.

We cannot afford to let that happen again. All the focus today on energy prices has probably helped to facilitate bringing this bill to the floor for consideration today. Unfortunately, we often only act during crises, which means we do not take the time to think big, to make big plans and to dream big. America has been built on big dreams and hard work. That is what has made America the greatest Nation on Earth. That is why we need to think big in changing the energy that we use today before it is too late, for our environment and for our security. The H-Prize will help in doing this.

Perhaps there is a student out there today whose imagination will be sparked by the H-Prize and he or she may become an engineer and some day help develop the much-needed answers to today's energy problems. I hope that that opportunity is out there today and this H-Prize provides that inspiration to them.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today, and perhaps one day we will look back on this day when the House passed the H-Prize, look at it as a catalyst that led to a better, cleaner and more secure America and world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank Mr. LIPINSKI for his cooperative spirit and very helpful comments along the way. Mr. LIPINSKI is our chief cosponsor and someone who has improved the bill as it has worked its way through the process. Perhaps that is because of a pleasant personal relationship and also my respect for his expertise that made it easy for him to work with us, and I appreciate the work that he did to improve the bill.

Along the way we did make improvements through the committee process, and I appreciate the cooperative way that Mr. LIPINSKI and others on the Democratic side of the aisle worked with us in the committee. The result is a better bill and I am very appreciative of that.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I will introduce for the RECORD letters in support of the H-Prize from the National Hydrogen Association, the Hydrogen Advisory Council, the U.S. Fuel Cell Council, SAE International, Shell Hydrogen, BMW, General Motors, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Enertech Capital, Ion America, Tiax LLC, Protium Energy Technologies, and professors from USC Davis and Purdue.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the great work of our folks on the committee, particularly David Goldston was extremely helpful in making all this happen. He works closely with Chairman BOEHLERT. I also want to thank Mr. GORDON and, again, Mr. LIPINSKI and other members of our staff that made it possible for us to get this quickly to the House floor.

Let me close with this: We have an opportunity to solve America's challenge in energy. It is a Republican problem. It is a Democratic problem. It is an American problem. The good news is, it can have an American solution.

This is an opportunity for a triple play. If we do this right, we can improve our national security by ending our dependence on foreign oil. We will still use foreign oil; of course, we will use oil for a long time, but we can move away from the dependent state that we are in now, dependent on places that are very unstable. So it is an opportunity to improve our national security.

It is also, secondly, an opportunity to create jobs and economic development, because if we can reinvent the car, imagine the jobs we can create.

And then, third, for the third part of the triple play is an opportunity to clean the air. Because whether it is an internal combustion engine, the way that BMW intends to do it, or a fuel cell, the way that General Motors intends to do it, the only emission out of the back of the car is water. We want to incentivize those breakthroughs.

There are some technological hurdles ahead, but with an H-Prize, with the incentive from the Federal Government and the support of the Federal Government saying we are going to do this, we are going to get there, I believe that we will summon the cre-

ativity of inventors and investors out there in America and around the world to try to win this prize, and in the process, America will win with a triple play.

Mr. Speaker, the letters I referred to previously are as follows:

HYDROGEN ADVISORY COUNCIL,
May 8, 2006.

Representative BOB INGLIS,
Cannon HOB,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN INGLIS: On behalf of the Hydrogen Advisory Council, I want to congratulate you on the movement of H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006, through the House Science Committee. We look forward to working with your office in the near future to move this crucial legislation to the President's desk.

As you know, the U.S. spent almost \$250 billion on oil in 2005 and 25% of America's trade deficit currently comes from importing oil. These staggering numbers combined with growing instability in the world's oil producing regions is very concerning, and the need for a domestic solution to the nation's future energy needs has never been more apparent.

We believe that the solution is hydrogen. Not only does hydrogen provide a clean and renewable source of energy for the U.S., it will help create thousands of new jobs and enhance our national security.

The H-Prize will help move the nation towards this goal. By incentivizing key breakthroughs in hydrogen technology, storage, production, and distribution, the H-Prize Act of 2006 will help speed the hydrogen economy to fruition. Furthermore, the H-Prize will do this in a fiscally responsible way by only awarding prize monies to technologies that reach set performance metrics and by leveraging a combination of federal dollars and private-sector investment without impeding natural market forces.

The Hydrogen Advisory Council fully supports the H-Prize Act of 2006 and will do all it can to assure its future passage and utilization. Thank you again for your continued leadership on hydrogen policy.

Cordially,
ROBERT S. WALKER,
Chairman, Hydrogen Advisory Council.

THE NATIONAL HYDROGEN ASSOCIATION,
May 9, 2006.

Hon. BOB INGLIS,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INGLIS: On behalf of the 102 members of the National Hydrogen Association (NHA), I would like to extend our hearty support for your H-Prize legislation, H.R. 5143. For over 17 years, we have been an association dedicated to pursuing the research, development and demonstration of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, leading to a firm basis for establishing and growing a commercial Hydrogen Economy. We believe that this latest version of the bill will have an important affect upon how needed technical breakthroughs occur.

Your bill promises to generate the drama and excitement of genuine technological feats that might otherwise appear obscure. Above and beyond the steady, devoted work of those many scientists and engineers in our strong RD&D programs, we need to build a sense of excitement, of the high value of pursuing difficult tasks—something to dramatize our nation's willingness to invest in this future. Prizes motivate and inspire—if carefully focused, they can truly move technology ahead.

This is something powerful that the federal government can do together with industry,

by rewarding imagination and creating the climate for the success of innovation. Whole new industries can be built around these ideas, and we can accelerate the pace of achieving them. Celebrate and accelerate—let's put the hydrogen economy on a faster track.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY A. SERFASS,
President.

U.S. FUEL CELL COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2006.

Hon. ROBERT INGLIS,
Cannon HOB,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN INGLIS: On behalf of the U.S. Fuel Cell Council, I am writing in support of the "H-Prize" Act of 2006 (H.R. 5143). The program proposed under this act represents a creative mechanism to encourage high-risk research and development that will help us commercialize fuel cell and hydrogen technologies. Additionally, the H-Prize will help increase public awareness—a necessary component to improve general education and outreach.

In 2003, President Bush and Congress challenged American industry, academia and other institutions to find new ways to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy based on hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Congress recognized the need to bolster federal involvement in developing these technologies last year when it passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It is our hope that Congress complements this achievement, passes the H-Prize, and funds both programs accordingly.

The U.S. Fuel Cell Council has long held that the development of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies need not be entirely supported by federal investments. That said, establishing an H-Prize can help leverage federal funding in a way that rewards results and compliments DoE objectives.

America is leading the drive to develop fuel cell and hydrogen technology; however, other countries are pursuing very aggressive programs that may soon rival our own. To that aim, we feel that the H-Prize can help America keep its competitive edge as we work to create a cleaner, more efficient and secure supply of energy.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

ROBERT ROSE,
Executive Director.

SAE INTERNATIONAL,
Warrendale, PA, May 9, 2006.

Representative BOB INGLIS,
Fourth District,
South Carolina.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INGLIS: I am writing to strongly support the creation and implementation of the "H-Prize" Act of 2006, HR 5143. This Act, creating national prizes for breakthroughs in hydrogen production, distribution, storage and utilization, will greatly enhance the existing work being done in advanced automotive technology research and development and its supporting industries. Being that there is no clear industry consensus on automotive propulsion systems or their fuels for the future, it is clear that a need exists for longer term solutions that will provide energy independence for America, and hydrogen clearly can lead us toward that goal.

It is critically important that research and development activities increase so challenging issues can be resolved sooner than current progress permits, awareness to industry and the public is raised to a much higher level and that preparation for consumer acceptance is advanced beginning in the early phases of hydrogen technology development.

The "H-Prize" will support an important initiative toward our longer term goals by providing near term impetus to encourage innovations and solutions to the challenges posed, I urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. AMATI, Ph.D.,
Director, Automotive Business and
Automotive Headquarters.

SHELL HYDROGEN,
Houston, TX, May 9, 2006.

Hon. BOB INGLIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN INGLIS: I write to you today in support of H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006. I would like to commend you for your leadership in introducing this legislation and recognize the members of the Science Committee for endorsing it as well. The creation of an H-Prize will further raise the profile of hydrogen on the national stage and demonstrate more direct and visible leadership from Congress on an important issue for the economy, the environment and from a national security perspective.

The goal of providing hydrogen as a fuel on a significant scale requires a coordinated undertaking within all levels of government, the automotive industry, and energy companies. The federal government has an important role in fostering technological innovation that has societal benefits—the creation of the Hydrogen Prize is an important step because a hydrogen economy will not emerge by virtue of technology alone. Any further developments will be a combination of technology, economics and policy decisions.

One of the strongest points in support of an H-Prize is the ability to stimulate involvement and innovation across a much broader community than is possible with DOE funding alone. For example, student competitions, universities, small labs, start-up companies, even folks in their garages can participate—which has been a hallmark of American ingenuity and competitiveness in so many other pioneering areas. An H-Prize can only accelerate commercialization and increase public awareness in support of the growing global market.

In closing, I would again like to voice my support of this legislation. It is imperative that we find innovative ways to realize the benefits of hydrogen as a clean, competitive and sustainable energy solution.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP T. BAXLEY,
President.

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA,
Woodcliff Lake, NJ, May 9, 2006.

Hon. BOB INGLIS,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INGLIS: The BMW Group enthusiastically supports the H-Prize Act of 2006 (H.R. 5143).

The BMW Group strongly believes that liquid hydrogen fueled internal combustion engines are a viable clean energy solution. They will also provide the level of driving dynamics that our customers expect. BMW continues to invest in hydrogen technology and to work with other companies and industries on the infrastructure issues that need to be solved in order to make the use of hydrogen a reality in the United States.

While BMW will compete aggressively to win the H-Prize, the award is more important than an individual corporate victory. It is time for everyone in the country—consumers, government leaders, and industry—to expand their horizons to find new and innovative ways to address energy and clean air issues. The answer will not come from one technology or one piece of legislation or

regulation, but from providing incentives to let people explore a range of options to achieve the common objective. The H-Prize initiative supports the "can do" attitude that is such an important part of the American landscape.

Copies of this letter will be sent to the leadership of the House and the Science Committee urging them to support your effort.

Yours sincerely,

TOM PURVES,
President.

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2006.

Hon. BOB INGLIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. INGLIS: General Motors is working aggressively to improve the efficiency of our vehicles through the application of new technologies like flex fuel vehicles and hybrid-electric drives. However, we believe that hydrogen fuel cells offer the opportunity to take a quantum leap in reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and the overall environmental impacts of vehicles. GM's goal is to design and validate a fuel-cell propulsion system for passenger vehicles by 2010 which is competitive with current internal combustion systems on durability and performance, and that ultimately can be built at scale affordably.

We believe that H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006, could help us reach that goal, and help to hasten the transformation to a hydrogen economy. The bill would establish a series of prestigious, national prizes to attract the brightest entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers to hydrogen research. Of particular importance, the bill would provide for up to four \$1 million prizes biennially for the most significant breakthroughs in hydrogen storage, production, utilization, and distribution; and a biennial \$4 million prize for the most successful prototype use of hydrogen.

Taken together, these prizes can help to attract the interest of new companies and researchers to fields relevant to the hydrogen economy. To ensure that this legislation does not have the unintended consequence of reducing the funding available to the Department of Energy's hydrogen and fuel cell programs, we urge you to consider designating the Department of Commerce, for example, to act as the administering agency—in consultation with the DOE. However, this concern should not delay the House from moving quickly to pass the bill.

We urge the House to pass the H-Prize Act of 2006.

Sincerely,

KEN W. COLE,
Vice President, Government Relations.

AIR PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS, INC.,
Allentown, PA, May 8, 2006.

Hon. ROBERT D. INGLIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INGLIS: On behalf of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., I would like to express our support for the "H-Prize" Act of 2006 (H.R. 5143). The program proposed under this act will be instrumental to encourage developments that could lead the United States from our financially draining dependence on foreign oil. Additionally, the projects will be crucial to build public awareness and acceptance of a hydrogen-based fuel economy within the United States.

As the world's leading producer of third-party hydrogen, we at Air Products live the

reality of commercial hydrogen production, storage, and distribution—a world largely unnoticed by the general public. Air Products has been providing hydrogen to the U.S. Government, oil refiners, the electronics industry, and other process industries for decades; we currently produce and deliver over 1.7 billion cubic feet of hydrogen per day. This is enough hydrogen to keep 7 million cars on the road, today. We will bring on-stream an additional 240 million cubic feet per day of production in just the next several months, and more capacity will follow.

From our position in today's hydrogen economy, and as a U.S. company, Air Products sees a visible commitment from our federal government as an essential ingredient to accelerate the U.S. toward a more secure future. Our country has established itself as a leader in the hydrogen economy, a justifiable source of national pride that is greatly underappreciated. A critical element in keeping this lead is visible support from the federal government. Moreover, while hydrogen initiatives are advancing, the pace of development could be increased. The fiscally responsible nature of the "H-Prize" program will publicize the realities of hydrogen accomplishments, and encourage additional developments. Americans love a good competition.

We support and encourage the efforts of the federal government to work with industry and academia to drive the U.S. toward a larger-scale hydrogen economy. The "H-Prize" program could contribute greatly to recognize accomplishments that will improve our environment, enhance energy efficiency, and secure future energy supply needs. We look forward to helping to meet the growing clean energy needs of all Americans. Thank you for your consideration, and we trust that your colleagues will support the "H-Prize" initiative.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. MUTCHLER,
General Manager—Integrated Businesses.

ENERTECH,
Wayne, PA, May 9, 2006.

Representative BOB INGLIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INGLIS: I am writing in support of creation of the "H-Prize" act of 2006, H.R. 5143. This act, when implemented, will create a series of national prizes for the most significant breakthroughs in hydrogen production, distribution, storage, and utilization. I am particularly interested in the grand prize that enables a match of any venture capital raised by the grand prize winner. This may aid in the capitalization and commercialization of important new technologies, and lay the foundation for creation of new jobs and potentially enhance national security.

As a managing partner in one of the most established venture capital funds that has targeted energy and clean technologies, I have a strong interest in encouraging our emerging scientists and engineers to develop breakthrough technologies and solutions which may yield some of the most important venture capital investments ever made in this country.

There are numerous challenges that exist in the development of a viable hydrogen economy. They include: (1) the development of safe, light-weight, low-cost hydrogen storage for onboard vehicles and at refueling stations; (2) the development of inexpensive, durable, and efficient fuel cell systems for vehicle propulsion; and (3) the integration of this technology into the infrastructure and respective supply chains. All of these activities could benefit from a well-designed nationally sponsored competition.

I believe that a competition, as envisioned by the act, will have benefit for individual contributors, venture capitalists interested in the emerging energy technology space, and for the country at large. There is a wide gulf today in the beliefs about the timelines for the implementation of important technologies in the hydrogen arena. This competition may raise the interest, and attention of our scientific community, and enable the continued development of technologies that encounter the gulf between scientific advancement and the first steps towards commercialization.

The announcement of these awards should generate significant press and media interest, and will further raise the awareness among the nation's brightest students, scientists and engineers to this critically important area. We have a tremendous opportunity in this country to turn our attention to a critically important and fundamental need. This H-prize can help direct our best minds towards solving some of the most important energy challenges of our time. I encourage you and your colleagues to support this important bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

BILL KINGSLEY,
Managing Partner.

ION AMERICA,
Sunnyvale, CA, May 9, 2006.

Hon. BOB INGLIS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN INGLIS: I am writing in support of HR 5143. As the CEO of a leading fuel cell company dedicated to utilizing technology to address our nation's energy problems, I applaud and support your efforts to create incentives for the private sector to achieve solutions that will help our country succeed in the 21st century.

As you know, 25 percent of America's trade deficit comes from importing oil and the U.S. spent around \$250 billion on oil in 2005 alone. It's time to end our oil addiction and one way to achieve that goal is to begin to transition to a sustainable hydrogen economy. By transitioning to hydrogen, we can leapfrog debates on environment and climate change, create thousands of new high value jobs, and enhance national security. The "H-Prize" will help move the Nation towards this transition.

By providing for up to four \$1 million prizes biennially for the most significant breakthroughs in hydrogen storage, production, utilization, and distribution; and a biennial \$4 million prize for the most successful prototype use of hydrogen, this Act will truly make a difference.

The H-Prize will provide necessary federal leadership to incentivize private dollars without impeding market forces. As with many prizes in the past, the private-sector investment towards winning the prize is often many times the amount of the prize itself.

The H-Prize signals to those of us who are working in clean energy technology that the Federal government is a committed partner in our quest for energy security and a cleaner environment.

Best regards,

KR SRIDHAR,
CEO.

TIAX,
Cambridge, MA, May 9, 2006.

Representative BOB INGLIS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INGLIS: TIAX LLC is pleased to offer our support of the "H-Prize" Act of 2006 (HR 5143) to establish a series of prestigious, national prizes that would attract leading entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers into hydrogen research. We believe

that the establishment of this prize would accelerate the development of the technologies required for the commercialization of hydrogen fueled vehicles.

The Act would provide up to four \$1 million prizes biennially for the most significant breakthroughs in hydrogen storage, production, utilization, and distribution; and a biennial \$4 million prize for the most successful prototype use of hydrogen.

TIAX is a leading technology development firm in Cambridge, Mass., with a history of supporting the efforts of DOE and industry in assessing the technologies needed to implement highly efficient hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, as well as other options for improving the fuel efficiency of our transportation system. Our experience in this field suggests that the H-Prize Act of 2006, while certainly not being a substitute for the DOE's current hydrogen program, would greatly help stimulate the creative thinking needed to address the multiple challenges associated with the use of hydrogen.

We believe that the H-Prize would generate significant interest among a wide range of academic institutions and small businesses to accelerate R&D in this complex field. Its existence would likewise emphasize the importance that Congress is placing on addressing our reliance on imported oil with its increasingly negative economic and national security implications.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

JOHN M. COLLINS,
President.

PROTIUM ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES,
Emmaus, PA, May 9, 2006.

Hon. BOB INGLIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN INGLIS: I applaud you for introducing, and the House Science Committee for moving the H-Prize bill (H.R. 5143) forward for consideration by the full House. Thank you for your vision and leadership in trying to establish a prize program to encourage breakthrough developments in hydrogen technology.

As a hydrogen energy consultancy business owner, and as an individual who has focused his energies over the last 14 years on the development and advancement of hydrogen as an energy option, I can tell you that this legislation will play an extremely important role in accelerating the creation of new energy options for our Nation. That H-Prize Act by establishing a series of prestigious, national prizes will attract the brightest entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers to hydrogen research. I also believe that the creation of these prizes will serve to invigorate interest on the part of our younger generation, in science and math education, and prepare them to tackle our critical energy supply issues.

The hydrogen economy is not as far away as many think. With key developments in hydrogen technology, we can make our country less dependent on oil and thus more secure; generate jobs and new industry by reinventing the way we power our economy while cleaning up the environment. The \$11 million in annual appropriations authorized by this legislation is but a small investment in helping solve one of the major problems faced by society in the 21st century.

In addition to my private business endeavors, I have served voluntarily on numerous public initiatives to promote hydrogen as an energy carrier including serving as a trustee of the National Hydrogen Association (NHA) based in Washington, D.C. and have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for over 10 years including as Chairman during 1997-1999. I respectfully refer you to my

web site for more background, www.protiumenergy.com.

In closing I once again want to thank you for your consideration efforts in moving this idea forward and would wholeheartedly urge the House to pass this important supplement to the ongoing Department of Energy Hydrogen R&D program which must continue. My thanks to you and your colleagues for considering this request.

Sincerely,

VENKI RAMAN, PH.D.,
President, Protium Energy Technologies.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006, a bill that represents a significant step towards our Country's energy independence.

The recent rise in gas prices has only magnified the United States' overwhelming reliance on oil. We cannot allow our economy to be held captive by nations such as Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, whose manipulation of the world oil market can cause massive price disruptions at home. Obviously, we need another way.

The forecasts of future high oil prices make possible other options, and to further transition our economy away from its dependence on foreign oil we must pursue all of them—nuclear, renewables such as ethanol and biodiesel, wind, solar—and expand our domestic oil supplies by drilling in ANWR and offshore. One of the most promising of these alternatives is hydrogen power. Hydrogen's huge advantage is that it can be created from virtually any energy source, both conventional or unconventional. Indeed, in my district a company is planning to build a "green hydrogen" plant that will use waste materials that often end up in landfills. Broadening the materials that can be used as primary energy sources increases our chances at reducing our energy imports from overseas. And furthermore, by lowering emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases, hydrogen power is good for the environment, too.

By establishing a national prize competition for innovations in hydrogen power, the H-Prize Act will summon our Nation's best and brightest to the challenge of overcoming the technical hurdles that stand in the way of the hydrogen economy. Government initiatives are no match for the entrepreneurial power of the private sector to discover a way to make hydrogen a viable alternative to oil.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Messrs. INGLIS, LIPINSKI, and BOEHLERT for their hard work on this bill, and urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the need for hydrogen energy is vital in a time when our dependence on foreign oil is placing a heavy burden on our economy. H.R. 5143, the H-Prize Act of 2006 will establish a prize competition to encourage the development of breakthrough technologies that would make hydrogen a practical alternative to foreign oil in our transportation sector. Hydrogen holds out the promise of being a non-polluting fuel since water vapor is the only byproduct of consuming it.

Currently, much research is needed in order for hydrogen to be stored, economically distributed, and used efficiently in cars. In order to facilitate this research, prize programs such as this one encourage more work to be done on the matter without putting much money up front. Thus, monetary awards offered for hydrogen production, storage distribution and utilization creation of a working hydrogen vehicle

prototype research are essential to promote research in these areas.

Private entities invest far more in research to win a prize than the government pays out in the prize reward. However, making this contest open to all people, especially minorities, women and disadvantaged enterprises, can help contribute significantly to these efforts.

Hydrogen technology seems ideal for a prize contest as long as it is advertised to a diverse segment of the population which includes minorities, women, small and disadvantaged businesses. Since, hydrogen technologies hold the promise of enormous reward, it is wise to encourage all to compete and provide them tools that assist in this area. At the end of the day, the Hydrogen Prize Act will help promote innovative results from a diverse community that will reduce technical and others barriers to the advancement of hydrogen technologies and the betterment of America.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. For several years now, I have been supporting hydrogen research efforts at Kennedy Space Center and at the Florida Institute of Technology. We are making progress, but still have a long way to go if we are to utilize hydrogen as a common source of energy.

The H-Prize Act of 2006, which will advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies, is a critical initiative in our national efforts to make hydrogen a viable energy alternative.

Hydrogen is a very promising source of energy that is both renewable and environmentally friendly. Most importantly, it is also an energy source that can be generated domestically without relying on imported energy products from unstable regions of the world.

I fully support the format for this initiative, which will award prizes based on the technologies developed. The prize format will save American taxpayers money as compared to the standard funding of research and development programs. Also, The cost to the American taxpayer from the H-Prize program is very minimal as compared to the returns that could be realized through a domestically renewable energy source.

By delivering feasible technologies in the areas of hydrogen production, storage, distribution, and utilization, the H-Prize program will solve the most problematic issues in making hydrogen a workable solution. In addition, the H-Prize program will advance the crucial efforts to develop prototypes of hydrogen-powered vehicles and, eventually, production vehicles.

Taken together, the technological advancements born out of the H-Prize program will deliver transformational changes to our energy and transportation sectors. Creative initiatives like the H-Prize will help us move toward energy independence.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5143, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 805 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 805

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4297) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 805 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The resolution also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, 2003 and 2004, Congress enacted responsible tax relief to help create jobs, grow America's economy and allow workers, families and small businesses to keep more of their hard-earned money to save, invest and spend for their future. I believe individuals and families are best able to make these decisions, not the Federal Government.

These tax relief policies are clearly working, Mr. Speaker. Over the last 5 years, tax relief has helped spur economic and job growth. The economy has expanded for 18 consecutive quarters, reaching 4.8 percent growth in the first quarter of this year alone, and the forecast for continued growth is positive.

Since enacting tax relief, national unemployment has dropped over a full